a light beam restricting unit shaping the light beams from the laser diodes through the coupling lenses so that the light beams have a given spot size, the light beam restricting unit being positioned close to the point;

a polygonal mirror; and

a scan lens causing the light beams reflected by the polygonal mirror to form images on a scanned surface, wherein said light beam restricting unit is situated between said light source and said polygonal mirror to shape the light beams before the light beams enter said scan lens that forms the images.

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9. (Three Times Amended) A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source emitting light beams, outgoing beam directions in which the light breams travel being on slanting optical axes arranged so as to cross each other at a point;

a deflection unit deflecting the light beams;

an optical unit causing the light beams from the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface; and

an aperture situated close to said point and arranged to shape the light beams, wherein said aperture is situated between said light source and said deflection unit to shape the light beams before the light beams enter said optical unit that forms the images.

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12. (Amended) A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source emitting light beams, outgoing beam directions in which the light beams travel being arranged so as to cross each other at a point;

a deflection unit deflecting the light beams;

an optical unit causing the light beams from the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface; and

an aperture situated close to said point and arranged to shape the light beams, wherein said aperture is situated between said light source and said deflection unit to shape the light beams before the light beams enter said optical unit that forms the images,

wherein the light beams emitted by the light source cross each other at a position close to the deflection unit,

wherein said aperture shapes the light beams so as to have a given spot size, the aperture being positioned close to said position, and

wherein the light beams cross each other on a deflection surface of the deflection unit.

14. (Amended) A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source emitting light beams, outgoing beam directions in which the light beams travel being arranged so as to cross each other at a point;

a deflection unit deflecting the light beams;

an optical unit causing the light beams from the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface; and

an aperture situated close to said point and arranged to shape the light beams, wherein said aperture is situated between said light source and said deflection unit to shape the light beams before the light beams enter said optical unit that forms the images,

wherein the light beams emitted by the light source cross each other at a position close to the deflection unit,

wherein said aperture shapes the light beams so as to have a given spot size, the aperture being positioned close to said position, and

wherein the aperture is incorporated into deflection surfaces of the deflection unit, and the given spot size of the light beams is larger than a size of each of the deflection surfaces.

15. (Amended) A multibeam scan apparatus comprising: